



URGENT ACTION

TL5038

PUBLIC

AI Index: ASA 21/52/99

UA 147/99

Possible "disappearance"

25 June 1999

EAST TIMOR

Jose Talue

Amnesty International is concerned for the safety of Jose Talue, who has been missing since 13 June 1999.

Jose Talue is a member of the pro-independence *Conselho Nacional da Resistência Timorese* (CNRT), National Council of Timorese Resistance, from Padias Village, Pante Makasar Sub-district, Ambeno District. On 13 June, he was ordered by a sergeant from Battalion 744 of the Indonesian National Army (TNI), based at the District Military Command (Kodim) headquarters in Ambeno, to take a public bus to the town of Kefamenanu, Kefamenanu District, in West Timor (the western part of the island, which is not part of East Timor) to deliver part of a motorbike chassis. The sergeant is believed to have left for Kefamenanu on a motorbike at the same time. It is not known whether Jose Talue arrived in Kefamenanu, and his family have not heard from him since. Human rights workers are concerned that he may have been arrested either during the journey or on arrival in Kefamenanu.

Jose Talue had reportedly been arrested by Sakunar, a pro-Indonesian militia group operating with the support of the TNI, on 16 April 1999. He was released shortly afterwards but is believed to have been forced to renounce his membership of CNRT and declare support for continued integration of East Timor with Indonesia. Since his arrest by the militia group, Jose Talue was believed to have been required to report to Kodim Ambeno.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Supporters of independence for East Timor remain at risk of arbitrary arrest, "disappearance" or unlawful killing, by militias that support continued integration with Indonesia and by the TNI.

On 5 May 1999 the governments of Indonesia and Portugal signed an agreement with the United Nations, which stated that the UN would hold a ballot in East Timor in which the East Timorese would vote on whether to accept or reject an offer of autonomy within Indonesia. Under the agreement, Indonesia made a commitment to ensure the security of the East Timorese people, and to ensure that the security forces would be neutral and that those responsible for human rights violations would be arrested and brought to justice. These commitments have not yet been fulfilled. Since the agreement was signed, 34 suspected supporters of independence have been unlawfully killed and a further 50 have been arbitrarily detained.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Please send telegrams/faxes/express/airmail letters in Bahasa Indonesia or English or your own language:

- urging the authorities to confirm whether or not Jose Talue has been arrested. If he has been arrested, he should be charged with a recognisably criminal offence or immediately released;
- urging the authorities to provide details of his whereabouts and ensure that he is not being tortured or ill-treated if he is being held in custody.

APPEALS TO:

Chief of Police for East Timor

Col. GM Timbul Silaen

Kapolda Timor Timur

Dili

East Timor

Indonesia

Faxes: + 62 390 321 544

COPIES TO:

COMMANDER RESORT MILITARY COMMAND (KOREM) 164/WIRADHARMA

(covers East Timor)

Colonel Tono Suratman

Markas KOREM 164/Wiradharma

Dili

East Timor

Indonesia

Faxes: + 62 390 321 512

and to diplomatic representatives of Indonesia accredited to your country.

PLEASE SEND APPEALS IMMEDIATELY. Check with the International Secretariat, or your section office, if sending appeals after 6 August 1999.